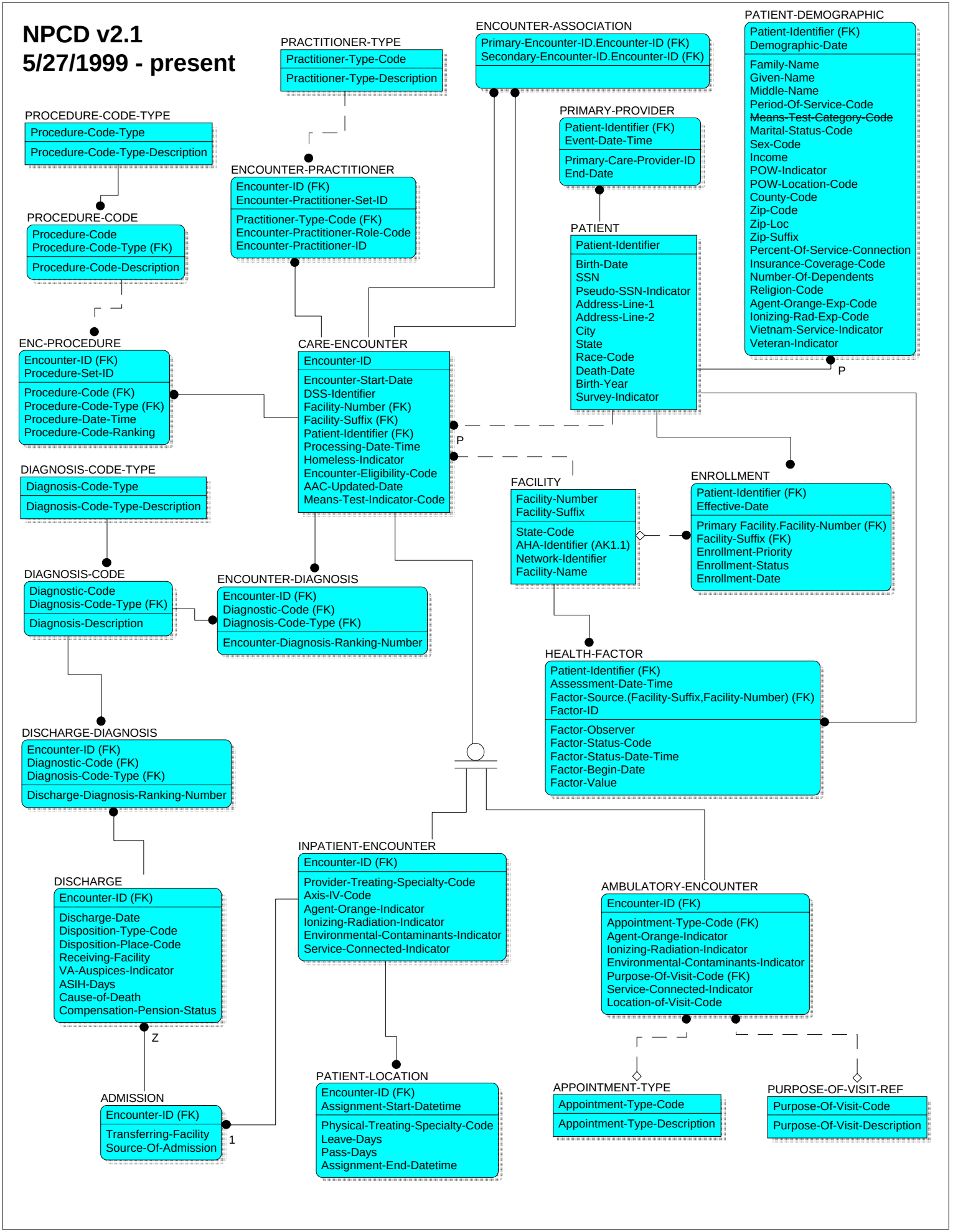
NPCD v2.1
5/27/1999 - present



NPCD v2.1 Entity Definitions

Entity Name	Entity Definition
ADMISSION	The formal acceptance by a hospital of a patient who is to be provided with room, board, and continuous nursing services in an area of the hospital where patients generally stay at least overnight. (Ref: ASTM E 1384-9, 3.1.18)
AMBULATORY-ENCOUNTER	A category of encounter for services provided as ambulatory care. Where ambulatory care is defined as "that preventive and/or corrective healthcare, provided in practitioner's office or clinic setting, on in the hospital on a nonresident basis (i.e., not requiring overnight stay and not included in the census). While many inpatients may be ambulatory, the term ambulatory usually implies that the patient has come to a location other than his or her home and has departed that same day." (Ref: ASTM E 1384-96, 3.1.2)
APPOINTMENT-TYPE	Master table of valid VA appointment types for scheduling outpatient encounters. Appointment type relates to the eligibility under which the patient is seen.
CARE-ENCOUNTER	Either an encounter or ancillary service visit. Encounter: 1) An instance of direct (usually face-to-face) interaction, regardless of the setting, between a patient and a practitioner vested with primary responsibility for diagnosing, evaluating and/or treating the patient's condition or providing social worker services. 2) A contact between a patient and a practitioner who has primary responsibility for assessing and treating the patient at a given contact, exercising independent judgment. (Ref: ASTM E1384-96, 3.1.11) Ancillary service visit: Appearance of an outpatient in a unit of a hospital or outpatient facility to receive service(s), test(s), or procedures. (Ref: ASTM E 1384-96, 3.1.4)
DIAGNOSIS-CODE	Master table of possible diagnoses. Since there exist many diagnostic coding systems, each entry in this table requires both the identifier and name of coding system (Ref: ASTM E 1238-94, 6.6.2).
DIAGNOSIS-CODE-TYPE	Master table of diagnostic coding systems (Ref: ASTM E 1238-94, Table 3).
DISCHARGE	The termination of an inpatient admission. Identifies the circumstances under which the patient terminated the encounter.
DISCHARGE-DIAGNOSIS	A ranked list of diagnoses according to some diagnosis coding scheme. Applies to the patient's entire length of stay.
ENCOUNTER-ASSOCIATION	Links encounters. Outpatient service encounters can be linked to the encounter where the service orders were placed. Inpatient transfer encounters can be linked to the admission.
ENCOUNTER-DIAGNOSIS	An associative entity for recording multiple diagnoses per encounter or ancillary service
ENCOUNTER-PRACTITIONER	An associative entity for recording descriptive information about multiple individual providers per encounter or ancillary service.
ENC-PROCEDURE	An associative entity for recording multiple procedures for an encounter or ancillary service.
ENROLLMENT	A veteran patient enrolled for care at a Preferred Facility
FACILITY	Master table of organizational providers. This is the primary organization or establishment responsible for the availability of health care services for this specific encounter. (Ref: ASTM E 1384-96, 9.12.2)
HEALTH-FACTOR	An event or condition affecting the health status of a patient
INPATIENT-ENCOUNTER	A category of encounter initiated by an inpatient admission
PATIENT	The recipient of medical services provided by a VA medical center, clinic, nursing home, domicilliary, or fee provider. The individual's status may be inpatient or outpatient. Patients can be (under certain conditions of eligibility) a veteran, a veteran's family member, an active duty service person, VA employee, sharing agreement beneficiary, a humanitarian case, or other as specified by VA policy or law. (Ref: M-1, Part 1, Chapter 5.03 (16))
PATIENT-DEMOGRAPHIC	Patient information which can change during the patient's life-time; updated when the patient receives an encounter of Care.
PATIENT-LOCATION	The location, in terms of a care unit and physical location within that unit, of an inpatient's assigned bed.
PRACTITIONER-TYPE	Master table of individual provider types classified by occupation, specialty and subspecialty. The table includes both licensed and non-licensed practitioners. (Ref: DISA X12N Healthcare Provider Taxonomy),
PRIMARY-PROVIDER	An individual health care practioner, supported by a team, who is assigned responsibility for managing the healthcare of discrete populations (panels) of patients. (Ref: VHA Directive 98-048, Installation and Use of the VistA Primary Care Management Module, October 27, 1998)
PROCEDURE-CODE	Master table of possible procedures. Since there exist many procedural coding systems, each entry in this table requires both the identifier and name of coding system (Ref: ASTM 1238-94, 6.6.2).
PROCEDURE-CODE-TYPE	Master table of procedural coding systems (Ref: ASTM E 1238-94, Table 5).
PURPOSE-OF-VISIT-REF	Master table of valid VA administrative reasons for outpatient visits. (Ref: M-1, Part I, Chapter 16, Appendix 16A, paragraph 3.l)

NPCD v2.1 Attribute Definitions

Attribute Entity Name	Attribute Name	Attribute Definition
ADMISSION	Source-Of-Admission	A code that indicate where medical center patients come from and/or their status at the time of admission.
	Transferring-Facility	The unique designation for a VA facility from which the patient is transferring. Comment Text: Transferring-Facility is a rolename for the attribute Facility Number under the entity FACILITY describing an ADMISSION.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
AMBULATORY-ENCOUNTER	Appointment-Type-Code	Code representing the regulatory authority for an outpatient appointment.
	Purpose-Of-Visit-Code	Code representing the administrative reason for an outpatient encounter.
	Location-of-Visit-Code	Code representing whether an encounter occurred at a VA facility.
	Ionizing-Radiation-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.
	Environmental-Contaminants-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to toxic substances or environmental contaminants during military service.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Agent-Orange-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicide during military service in Vietnam.
	Service-Connected-Indicator	Indicates whether care provided to a veteran patient was related to an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service.
APPOINTMENT-TYPE	Appointment-Type-Code	Code representing the regulatory authority for an outpatient appointment.
	Appointment-Type-Description	Text description of the regulatory authority for an outpatient appointment.
CARE-ENCOUNTER	Means-Test-Indicator-Code	Code representing a patient's priority for care.
	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	DSS-Identifier	Code representing the type of treatment provided in an outpatient clinic.
	Facility-Suffix	The designation of a sub-station of a VA facility.
	Facility-Number	The unique designation for a VA facility.
	Encounter-Eligibility-Code	Code representing the basis of a patient's eligibility for the services provided in a clinical encounter.
	Encounter-Start-Date	The date an encounter began.
	Homeless-Indicator	Indicates whether patient was flagged as homless in the Social Work Package Special Patient Population field.
	Processing-Date-Time	Date and time an encounter record was processed at the originating facility.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	AAC-Updated-Date	Date and time an encounter record was changed in the database.
DIAGNOSIS-CODE	Diagnostic-Code	Code representing the condition, problem, or reason for an encounter.
	Diagnosis-Description	Text description of the condition, problem, or reason for an encounter.
	Diagnosis-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding conditions, problems, and reasons for encounters.
DIAGNOSIS-CODE-TYPE	Diagnosis-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding conditions, problems, and reasons for encounters.
	Diagnosis-Code-Type-Description	Text description of a methodology for encoding conditions, problems, and reasons for encounters.

Attribute Entity Name	Attribute Name	Attribute Definition
DISCHARGE	Disposition-Place-Code	Code representing the type of facility or environment where the discharged patient will continue care.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	VA-Auspices-Indicator	A code that determines whether the patient was transferred for further care under VA auspices.
	Disposition-Type-Code	Code representing the status of a patient at discharge.
	Discharge-Date	The date the episode of care ended, started by an admission.
	ASIH-Days	The total number of days patient was "absent, sick in hospital" if stay was not in the hospital.
	Receiving-Facility	A facility code and facility suffix code for the facility that receives the patient.
	Cause-of-Death	Code which best describes either the immediate or the ultimate cause of a patient's death.
	Compensation-Pension-Status	A code that indicates whether a patient is receiving care for service connected condition and which relates that determination to the benefits the patient is receiving from VA. Must be crossed checked against the category of beneficiary field in the <101> transaction. For the following Means Test indicators these edits are performed: N - 8 AN - 5 or 7 B or C - 7 AS then POW must equal 4-9 COB must be 0 or 1 AO must be 3 or 4 IR must be 2 - 4 C&P = 1-4, or 6
DISCHARGE-DIAGNOSIS	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Diagnosis-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding conditions, problems, and reasons for encounters.
	Diagnostic-Code	Code representing the condition, problem, or reason for an encounter.
	Discharge-Diagnosis-Ranking-Number	The level of severity of the diagnosis as determined by judgment at discharge.
ENC-PROCEDURE	Procedure-Set-ID	Sequential number for a procedure within an encounter.
	Procedure-Date-Time	Date and time a clinical procedure was started.
	Procedure-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding clinical procedures.
	Procedure-Code-Ranking	Not defined.
	Procedure-Code	Code representing a clinical procedure performed during an encounter.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
ENCOUNTER-ASSOCIATION	Primary-Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Secondary-Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
ENCOUNTER-DIAGNOSIS	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Encounter-Diagnosis-Ranking-Number	Indicates whether a given condition, problem, or reason was the primary or a secondary reason for an encounter.
	Diagnosis-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding conditions, problems, and reasons for encounters.
	Diagnostic-Code	Code representing the condition, problem, or reason for an encounter.
ENCOUNTER-PRACTITIONER	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Practitioner-Type-Code	Code representing a health care practitioner's occupation and area of specialization.
	Encounter-Practitioner-Set-ID	Sequential number for a practitioner within an encounter.
	Encounter-Practitioner-Role-Code	Code representing whether a health care practitioner was the primary or a secondary provider in an encounter.
	Encounter-Practitioner-ID	A facility-specific unique identifier for a health care practitioner.

Attribute Entity Name	Attribute Name	Attribute Definition
ENROLLMENT	Effective-Date	The date that a Veteran's enrollment status changed..
	Facility-Suffix	The designation of a sub-station of a VA facility.
	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	Primary Facility	The unique designation for a VA facility.
	Enrollment-Status	Code representing the status of a veteran's application for enrollment in the VHA Uniform Benefits package.
	Enrollment-Priority	Code representing the priority level assigned to a veteran's application for enrollment in the VHA Uniform Benefits package.
	Enrollment-Date	The date an application for enrollment was signed or submitted.
FACILITY	State-Code	Code representing the state where a facility is located.
	AHA-Identifier	Unique identifier assigned to a facility by the American Hospital Association.
	Network-Identifier	An idenfier for a Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN).
	Facility-Suffix	The designation of a sub-station of a VA facility.
	Facility-Number	The unique designation for a VA facility.
	Facility-Name	The name of a VA facility.
HEALTH-FACTOR	Factor-ID	Identifier for a Veterans Health Administration defined health factor.
	Assessment-Date-Time	The date and time the patient was assessed for this health factor.
	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	Factor-Begin-Date	The onset date of this health factor for this patient..
	Factor-Observer	The practitioner who assessed this health factor.
	Factor-Source	The designation of a sub-station of a VA facility.
	Factor-Status-Code	A code indicating the status of this health factor observation. Values include: patient reported; unconfirmed; confirmed; not available.
	Factor-Status-Date-Time	The date and time the status of this factor was last changed.
	Factor-Value	This is the result of the observation.
INPATIENT-ENCOUNTER	Axis-IV-Code	Code representing a patient's psychiatric state using the Severity of Psycosocial Stressors (Axis IV).
	Service-Connected-Indicator	Indicates whether care provided to a veteran patient was related to an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service.
	Environmental-Contaminants-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to toxic substances or environmental contaminants during military service.
	Agent-Orange-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicide during military service in Vietnam.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Ionizing-Radiation-Indicator	Indicates whether care received was related to a patient's exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.
	Provider-Treating-Specialty-Code	A code designating the category of care provided to the patient.
PATIENT	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	Pseudo-SSN-Indicator	Indicates whether a patient's SSN is a temporary pseudo-social security number.
	Race-Code	Code representing the race and ethnicity of a patient.
	Address-Line-1	Number and street of a patient's primary mailing address.
	Death-Date	Date a patient died.
	City	City of a patient's primary mailing address.

Attribute Entity Name	Attribute Name	Attribute Definition
PATIENT	Birth-Year	Year a patient was born.
	Address-Line-2	Text supplemental to the number and street of a patient's primary mailing address.
	Survey-Indicator	
	State	The US Postal Service abbreviation for the state of a patient's primary mailing address.
	SSN	A patient's social security number or temporary pseudo-social security number.
	Birth-Date	Date a patient was born.
PATIENT-DEMOGRAPHIC	Agent-Orange-Exp-Code	Code representing a patient's claim of exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicide during military service in Vietnam.
	Religion-Code	Code representing the current religious affiliation of a patient.
	Zip-Loc	The 4-digit Zip code extension of a patient's primary mailing address.
	Zip-Code	The 5-digit Zip code of a patient's primary mailing address.
	Vietnam-Service-Indicator	Code representing whether a veteran patient served in Vietnam.
	Veteran-Indicator	Indicates whether a patient is a veteran.
	Sex-Code	Code representing the gender of a patient.
	Percent-Of-Service-Connection	The degree of disability suffered by a veteran as a result of injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service.
	County-Code	Code representing the county where a patient resides. See FIPS 6-4.
	Number-Of-Dependents	The number of family members a veteran patient is supporting.
	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	Middle-Name	Middle name or initial of patient.
	Period-Of-Service-Code	Code representing a patient's most recent period of military service.
	Means-Test-Category-Code	Data element not used.
	Marital-Status-Code	Code representing a patient's marital status.
	Demographic-Date	Date a patient demographic record was filed in the database.
	POW-Indicator	Indicates whether a patient was ever incarcerated as a prisoner of war.
	POW-Location-Code	Code representing the conflict during which a patient was incarcerated as a prisoner of war.
	Ionizing-Rad-Exp-Code	Code representing a patient's claim of exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.
	Insurance-Coverage-Code	Code representing the type of health insurance policy covering a patient.
	Income	A computed net income value for a veteran patient.
	Given-Name	First name of patient.
	Family-Name	Last name of patient.
	Zip-Suffix	Not defined.
PATIENT-LOCATION	Pass-Days	Authorized absences less than 96 hours.
	Leave-Days	Unauthorized absence days of 96 hours or greater, but less than 14 days.
	Encounter-ID	Unique identifier for an encounter.
	Assignment-Start-Datetime	The date and time an inpatient assignment to a location began.
	Assignment-End-Datetime	The date and time an inpatient assignment to a location ended.
	Physical-Treating-Specialty-Code	The physical location of where the care was provided. Physical location will be used to monitor the times a patient is housed in a physical location that is different from the type of care provided. (i.e. when insufficient beds are available for use by Medical Service, the patient may be physically transferred to a bed on the Surgical Service.) List

Attribute Entity Name	Attribute Name	Attribute Definition
		of codes will provide rolled-up subset of provider treating specialty codes.
PRACTITIONER-TYPE	Practitioner-Type-Description	Text description of a health care practitioner's occupation and area of specialization.
	Practitioner-Type-Code	Code representing a health care practitioner's occupation and area of specialization.
PRIMARY-PROVIDER	Patient-Identifier	A facility-specific unique identifier for a patient.
	Primary-Care-Provider-ID	A facility-specific unique identifier for a health care practitioner.
	End-Date	Date a primary care provider assignment ended.
	Event-Date-Time	Date a primary care provider assignment started.
PROCEDURE-CODE	Procedure-Code	Code representing a clinical procedure performed during an encounter.
	Procedure-Code-Description	Text description of a clinical procedure performed during an encounter.
	Procedure-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding clinical procedures.
PROCEDURE-CODE-TYPE	Procedure-Code-Type	Code representing a methodology for encoding clinical procedures.
	Procedure-Code-Type-Description	Text description of a methodology for encoding clinical procedures.
PURPOSE-OF-VISIT-REF	Purpose-Of-Visit-Code	Code representing the administrative reason for an outpatient encounter.
	Purpose-Of-Visit-Description	Text description of the administrative reason for an outpatient encounter.